

**FOX NEWS**  
**Tuesday, October 23, 2001**

## **Profiles of America's Fallen Heroes**

### **Master Sgt. Evander Earl Andrews**



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Evander Earl Andrews**

At 36, Evander Andrews had already given half his life to the Air Force. Now, the sergeant and civil engineer has given the rest.

He was killed in an Oct. 10 forklift accident in Qatar while building an airstrip there, becoming the first American casualty of the war on terrorism.

Andrews was honored Monday at his funeral in Arlington National Cemetery's Old Post Chapel.

At the service, Andrews' former squadron commander, Col. Ken Shelton, described him as a man with a "behind-the-scenes style that was both sincere and heartfelt."

"Leaders get involved — and Andy did," Shelton said to the 150 family, friends and Air Force personnel who gathered to remember Andrews.

Shelton said he learned to recognize the sergeant "by the soles of his boots and the back of his head," as he

usually could be found working on heavy equipment.

The son of Odber and Mary Andrews, Evander Andrews grew up in the tiny town of Solon, Maine, entered the Air Force out of high school and served 18 years. He was assigned to the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron, stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

Andrews' wife Judy and four young children — Ethan, 9; Leah, 6; Courtney, 4; and MacKenzie, 2 — sat in the front row of the chapel during the service. Ethan nodded in agreement when family pastor Thomas Westall, a retired Air Force major, described Andrews as a hero.

"Yep, he is a hero," the boy said in a small voice.



**Ranger Pfc.  
Kristofer T. Stonesifer**

### **Pfc. Kristofer Tif Stonesifer**

He was fiercely proud to be in the Army Rangers and always sought a challenge.

In fact, his sense of adventure was what led Kris

Stonesifer, 28, to quit ROTC last year because it wasn't hard enough for him. So he enlisted in the Army and joined the Rangers.

It was with the 75th Ranger Regiment, based in Fort Benning, Ga., that Stonesifer, along with another young soldier, died Friday when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Pakistan.

"He was an adventurer," his father's fiancée, Dr. Roberta Diamond, told his hometown paper, *The Intelligencer* of Doylestown, Pa.

The chopper was preparing for search-and-rescue duty in neighboring Afghanistan, where Rangers have led the ground war against Taliban and terrorist targets.

Stonesifer was raised in Doylestown and attended Central Bucks West High School. He moved to Missoula, Mont., several years ago with his girlfriend and best friend, according to Diamond, and went to the University of Montana. It was there that he enrolled in the ROTC program in 1999.

But Stonesifer grew restless. He left after his junior year to enlist in the Army in 2000.

"He wanted to be the best soldier in the U.S. Army, and the best soldiers in the Army are in the Ranger battalion," said Lt. Col. Jim Clegg, who headed the university's ROTC program.

Those who knew Stonesifer remember a young man who thrived on mental and physical challenges. A ROTC buddy, J.C. Schneider, said that for fun and practice, Stonesifer would round up other cadets at night and hop from roof to roof of buildings in downtown Missoula. The goal was to try to survey the scene without being detected.

Clegg said Stonesifer was one of his best students — older and wiser than some of his counterparts.

"He was a very mature and focused young man, one of my top two cadets in a very challenging year," Clegg said. "He made better decisions than some of the younger cadets made."



**Army Ranger**  
**Spc. Jonn J. Edmunds**

### **Spc. Jonn Joseph Edmunds**

At only 20, he exuded confidence, maturity and optimism rare for someone so young.

It was those very qualities that helped Jonn Edmunds, of Cheyenne, Wyo., to become an Army Ranger.

Edmunds died Friday in a helicopter accident in Pakistan. The Black Hawk chopper he was flying with Pfc. Kristofer Stonesifer was preparing to cross the border into Afghanistan on a search-and-rescue mission.

Edmunds' father, Donn Edmunds, a former Army officer and Vietnam veteran himself, said Jonn was a loving, caring young man and "an outstanding citizen, outstanding student and outstanding son."

One of Jonn's high school social studies teachers, Wayne Korhonen, said he remembers Edmunds from a psychology class as a quiet but popular top student.

"He had this incredibly dry sense of humor," he said. "He would straight-face these one-liners sometimes that would really make you laugh." Korhonen last saw him at Christmas Eve church services in 1999.

"He was, as always, very positive and very sure of himself and what he was doing," Korhonen said. "He was looking forward to becoming a Ranger."

Edmunds grew up in Cheyenne and graduated from Cheyenne East High School in 1999. He served with the 75th Ranger Regiment, based in Fort Benning, Ga.

In 1998, he participated in the American Legion Boys State, a prestigious government skills program for student leaders, and joined the Future Business Leaders of America the following year.

In his spare time, Edmunds liked to play paintball and lift weights. John Steichen, whose son Jamie was friends with Edmunds, said he was perpetually happy and loved being in the thick of things.

"He wanted to be where the action was," Steichen said. "He was ready. He didn't regret being in, I know that."